

## UNLAWFUL COLLECTION AND DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 327.]

MARCH 13, 1860.

Mr. COLFAX, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads,  
made the following

### REPORT.

The Committee on the Post Offices and Post Roads have unanimously instructed me to report "A bill to suppress the unlawful collection and delivery of letters," and the letters of the Postmaster General and First Assistant Postmaster General accompanying, which they submit as part of their report:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
March 6, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the accompanying letter from the First Assistant Postmaster General, which presents a state of facts urgently calling for additional legislation for the protection alike of the department and of the public against the abuses described and now existing in the city of New York. The bill reported in the Senate of the United States on the 10th June, 1858, if adopted, would, it is believed, correct the evil complained of.

I forward a copy of that bill, with slight interlineations, which will serve to render its provisions more comprehensive and more difficult of evasion.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. HOLT.

Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX,  
*Chairman Com. on the Post Offices and Post Roads,  
House of Representatives.*

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POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
*Appointment Office, March 3, 1860.*

SIR: During my visit in the early part of this week to New York city, I took occasion to examine three of the outside, or "bogus" post offices there—I am assured there are at least four of them—and to

inquire at the regular post office in respect to their operation. These four are located as follows: one on Broadway, near Canal street; one in Madison square; one in Chatham square, and one in Union square. The first is designated as the "*Broadway Post Office*," by large letters painted upon the front window glass, and inside the words "post office" are borne upon a sign in gilt letters over a case of pigeon holes in full view from the door. I observed that the pigeon holes contained many letters. The one in Union square is located next door to the United States post office station "D," one of the six regular stations for the receipt and distribution of the mails in that city. This, as I observed by the sign in large letters over the door, is called the "*Metropolitan Post Office*." Over the southwest entrance to the one in Chatham square are the words "Foreign Mail Letter Office," "City Dispatch and Chatham Square Letter Office," and upon the front window curtain or blind, in large letters, the words, "Post office." Over the southeast entrance the words, "*Chatham Square Letter Office*," "General and Box Delivery," "Ladies' Window," and at the sides of the door, in painted letters upon the wall on the outside, "Express for the Northern, Southern, and Eastern mails will close at 4½ o'clock, being one hour after the mails are closed at the post office in Nassau street."

Large numbers of letters for the mails, as well as city letters, are deposited in these offices, giving rise to constant complaints of losses and irregularities; and I was shown in the New York office large packages of letters, which, not being delivered to their address, had been sent there to be advertised, or otherwise disposed of as the office should direct. The most of them will be returned to the dead letter office.

I enclose herewith a letter received while I was in New York, from the postmaster of Cleveland, Ohio, inquiring for a lost letter containing twenty dollars in money, which the writer stated she had sent to the "Chatham square post office."

As you have called the attention of the Post Office Committee of the House of Representatives to the importance of passing some law to prevent and punish abuses of this kind, I have thought it might be well to present these facts to you, from my own observation, that you might, if deemed advisable, communicate the same to them, as showing the absolute necessity of early legislation on the subject.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HORATIO KING.

Hon. JOSEPH HOLT,  
Postmaster General.

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POST OFFICE, Cleveland, Ohio, February 24, 1860.

An Irish woman says she posted in this office, on Monday, the 20th instant, a letter containing a draft of \$20, to assist a sick brother in your city on his way from Ireland to this place, and he writes her that he has not received it, and tells her that when she writes him

again to direct to "Michael Fitzgibbon, general office, Nassau street, New York city. As the Irish are so apt to make mistakes in their address, I have got her to direct the enclosed envelope as near like the missing one as possible, in order to assist you to find it, if possible.

Respectfully yours,

B. HARRINGTON,  
*Postmaster.*  
By L. A. KELSEY.

Please answer if found.

POSTMASTER, *New York.*

"B. Lockwood, Chatham square post office, New York city. For Michael Fitzgibbon."

